Rebates on Polyvastra and Khadi

138. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the rebates available at present on the sale of polyvastra and khadi;

(b) whether Government propose to continue the rebate; and

(c) if so, the date till which the rebate will continue?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) The details of rebates available at present on the sale of polyvastra and khadi are as under:—

S.No.	Item	Normal Rebate from 16.05.97 and upto 14.08.97	Special Rebate from 15.08.97 to 14.08.98 in lieu of and inclusive of Normal Rebate
1.	Cotton Khadi	10%	15% for 365 days
2.	Woollen Khadi*	10%	15% for 365 days
3.	Silk Khadi		
	(i) Reeled	NIL	15% for 365 days
	(ii) Spun	10%	15% for 365 days
4.	Polyvastra	NIL	15% for 365 days

* it includes Kambals and Kamblies.

Apart from above rebate, an additional special rebate @ 10% has been allowed for 90 days from 2.10.97, in pursuance of decision taken in the meeting taken by Prime Minister on 9.9.97.

(b) and (c) The High Power Committee (HPC) in its report submitted in 1994 had made several recommendations including the replacement of rebate scheme for khadi with the Market Development Assistance (MDA) scheme with an objective to improve marketability of khadi products by allowing them the flexibility in utilisation of Government grant for purpsoes such as advertisement, consultancy services, for new designs etc. in addition to allfowing some rebate on sale of khdi. However, Government have not yet taken any decision on this recommendation of the HPC.

International exhibition on Jute India-97 held in New Delhi

139. SHRI AKHILESH DAS: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a three day international exhibition on Jute and its diversified products "Jute India 97" was held in New Delhi recently;

(b) what was the number of participants from within the country and abroad;

(c) whether during his inaugural address he had given an assurance for creation of technology upgradation fund for modernisation of the entire textile and jute industry; and

(d) if so, by when Government propose to implement the creation of technology fund?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Jute Manufactures Development Council, an autonomous body under Ministry of Textiles, organised a three day International Exhibition on jute and jute diversified products under the title "Jute India 97" on 20—22 October, 1997.

The exhibition comprised Seminar and Expo. The seminar was attended by 60 participants from abroad, including 4